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EUROPE

Sabotage committed by Communists in the non-Communist countries of Europe has been closely conditioned by the Soviet global line or tactic. In the period 1947 to 1950 there was indiscriminate violence and sabotage during periods of aggressive strike action. The action was directed from the Party's highest bodies with immediate direction usually provided by a central and local "higher strike committee" under which were strong-arm squads (to be referred to in this survey as militant action groups) to enforce compliance with Communist strike action. In the period 1952 and 1953 there was a limited amount of railway sabotage in France, but throughout all Europe the Communist-inspired action of these years was mostly restricted to anti-American demonstrations--demonstrations against visiting U.S. officials, U.S.-produced films, etc.

Beginning about 1956 there was more evidence of industrial sabotage in some areas, and from 1955 to the present Communists of both the French and Algerian CP's gave technical support to the National Liberation Forces in Algeria for sabotage action. Communist functionaries of the CGT figured in this support work. In May 1957 there was an isolated case of sabotage in a French shipyard which resulted in extensive damage; a CGT agitator who had entered the yard without authorization had instigated the action.

If the CP's of Italy and France were to seize upon legitimate labor or economic grievances they could presumably instigate local, or if the grievances were serious enough, nation-wide strikes. They could quickly organize strike committees and militant action groups to direct and execute the strike action which probably could assume violent proportions in areas where the CP's have the greatest strength. Because of lack of broad, popular support and because of apparent vigilance among non-Communist trade union and political leaders to contain Communist influence, it is not likely that CP's in most other European countries could effect widespread sabotage. On a limited and temporary basis they probably could cause disruption of communications and transport systems, add cause factory or mining installation damage in some industrial towns where their strength is greatest. In West Germany and Austria the threat of sabotage is

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greatest because it may be committed by agents of professional intelligence services of Communist Bloc countries. In view of the Greek CP's present unity-of-action policy to bring about a neutralist government, sabotage action is unlikely to be undertaken in Greece in the near future. The Greek CP's sabotage potential is probably very strong in view of the large number of CP members who have had experience or training in all phases of guerrilla warfare and sabotage.

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